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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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### TENNESSEE GAS

## Concerns aired over pipeline upgrades

By Michael Ballway  
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Elected officials are taking a second look at the proposed expansion of natural gas infrastructure in Agawam, after more than a dozen town residents spoke up on Tuesday against construction plans from Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company LLC.

Tennessee Gas is asking the City Council for an easement amendment that would allow it to build a “loop” pipeline along Suffield Street.

“This unnecessary project ... could cause real environmental and health damage to Agawam residents as well as contribute to the climate crisis,” Agawam resident Abbey Massaro told city councilors, reading from a letter signed by 17 town residents.

Opponents also said construction of the new pipeline would damage wetlands and streams, threaten two endangered species and clear 4½ acres of forests. They

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### AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

## New activities to celebrate New Year

*Children can learn about a holiday each month*

By Shelby Macri  
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The newest club at the library began last week with — appropriately — a celebration of the New Year.

The Holiday Club for elementary school students met for the first time on Jan. 15 with an evening of crafts, games and learning about the Chinese New Year, which occurs Saturday, Jan. 25, this year. The club will meet monthly, each time focusing on a different holiday. Rose Dupre, who works in the Children’s Room at the library, led the event, which was tailored to children in grades 2-4.

“I was just brainstorming, trying to think of something new for the kids, and holidays are fun,” Dupre said. “There are lots of fun things to do, and I love the holidays, so it was just a way to get the kids excited and get to do different crafts. And also it gives the kids a chance to find their own traditions.”

Last week’s program began with Dupre explaining how the Chinese calendar assigns one of 12 animals to each year, and asking each participant to find which animal sign they were born un-



From left, Olivia Govoni, Sophia Govoni and Lydia Santana share a laugh during the chopstick bean race at the Holiday Club celebration of Chinese New Year at the Agawam Public Library last week. PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

der. This coming year is the year of the rat. Rats are seen as a sign of wealth and surplus; those born during the year of the rat are said to be clever, quick thinkers, successful, and are content with living a quiet, peaceful life. Dupre also read a book to the children, a Chinese fable to explain some of the traditions of the New Year

celebration, such as lanterns, and red and yellow decorations.

Next up were fun activities. Dupre found a few classic crafts for the kids to work on, including paper lanterns, paper puzzles and tic-tac-toe. There were also games that Dupre set up, including one where chopsticks are used to pick up grains of uncooked rice, and

children race to see who can get more pieces. Dupre decided to have the kids try to pick up uncooked beans rather than rice. The children compared their different experiences with the traditional Asian utensil.

“I use chopsticks! Can you use

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### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

## On top of the world, once again

*8th grader wins Geo Bee tournament for 2nd time*

By Mike Lydick  
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Hunter Stark is a two-time champion. The eighth grader last weekend became only the second Agawam Junior High School student to have back-to-back wins at the Geography Bee.

As a seventh-grader, Stark won AJHS’s annual competition that tests students’ knowledge of places and things around the world, sponsored by National Geographic.

Earlier this month, the 14-year-old took home the title of champion again in the school’s 12th annual competition. His second stellar performance came as he once again competed against nine seventh- and eighth-graders — the top finalists — who were

selected from among the school’s 600 students.

The 10 finalists were determined by the results of a preliminary test taken by all students in the fall. Scoring well enough on the preliminary test to become a finalist is considered an “extraordinary feat.” Even some teachers who have taken the test can’t answer all the questions correctly.

Finalists are allowed only two incorrect answers. Once a student gives an incorrect answer twice, he or she must leave the stage and is eliminated from the competition.

Stark and social studies classmate Ryan Stairs were the last two students left on the stage on Jan. 17 after the other eight contestants were eliminated.

They squared off by answering a series of questions to break a tie



Hunter Stark proudly shows off the Geo Bee champion plaque after winning the competition a second straight year.

PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

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### TUCKAHOE TURF FARM

## Board OKs 55-acre solar farm

By Michael Ballway  
[mballway@turley.com](mailto:mballway@turley.com)

Solar array operators need to schedule a meeting with their new neighbors, and then they’re ready to begin building on the former Tuckahoe Turf Farm.

The Agawam Planning Board voted 3-0 last week to approve a 5 megawatt solar farm on 55 acres on the northern end of the town-owned property between South West and South Westfield streets. Because the project is on town-owned land, it does not require the approval of the City Council.

In the absence of a public hearing, meeting with the neighbors was a condition of the Planning Board’s Jan. 16 approval, however.

“We’d like to share the plan with them and ask them if that seems reasonable,” agreed Mark Chrisos, a project manager with Consolidated Edison Clean Energy Businesses.

Though solar panels will be just a couple hundred feet from nearby homes on Paul Revere Drive and Independence Road, the Tuckahoe site is on lower ground and will be separated from the homes by a three-foot berm topped with a seven-foot fence and plantings.

“Everything’s pretty low-profile,” said Chrisos. “You’re not going to see anything.”

Construction and maintenance vehicles will use the existing Tuckahoe Turf Farm driveway off South West Street.

Construction is expected to begin in April or May, and last until September or October. Only the first few weeks will require loud equipment, as the site is leveled and support frames for the solar panels are installed. As part of its site preparation work, ConEd will remove piles of brush and debris

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Q & AGAWAM

F.H. Grange preserves history – and a community

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

As Feeding Hills has become more suburban and less of the farming community it once was, one organization continues to hearken back to the neighborhood's history — the Community Grange. Not only was the group founded as a fraternal organization of farmers, but it also maintains a former one-room schoolhouse as its meeting hall. We spoke with Pauline Sosnowich, secretary for the local Grange, about the group's history and current activities.



Pauline Sosnowich

**Why you should know her:** Secretary of the Community Grange in Feeding Hills and a member for 50 years; former member of the Junior Grange.

**Favorite thing about Feeding Hills:** "The farming and agriculture, and the people that come together to support and celebrate it."



The Community Grange hall, once a one-room schoolhouse, is at 47 N. West St., Feeding Hills. PHOTO BY SHELBY MACRI

you were involved with the Community Grange?

A: I've been in the Grange for 50 years, so I've been doing this for a while. I joined the Junior Grange when my family moved to Agawam, and I had aged out at the age of 15. Then I transferred into the regular Community Grange, so this year it'll be 50 years. I've always been interested in this and I've always supported the Grange. I've especially supported this building's continued life, and anything to keep it running.

Q: How did you learn about the Grange?

A: I lived in Springfield first, and at that time I didn't know anything about the Grange. When we moved to Feeding Hills it was introduced to us and we've stuck with it ever since. You know, we try to have a lot of activities but we stick to the things we've already established. The members before us are deceased now and we have no young members, because our junior grange was officially closed. We have people the are 50 years old and older, and we're always accepting new members.

Q: What are some of your fundraisers?

A: We have an event coming up in February, where we will be having a Sandwich and Soup Luncheon [on Feb. 15]. We have a mailing list of about 60

people and I sent out brochures inviting them to our luncheon. Then in March, we're anticipating having a tag sale, like a big cabin fever tag sale. In June we hold our biggest fundraiser, the Strawberry Supper. On the second Saturday in December, we have an annual bazaar, where we have a bake sale and we get a lot of people to stop by.

Q: What do the fundraisers support?

A: The annual fundraisers are for the upkeep of the building. We really appreciate this space. We have different insurances like liability insurance and building insurance. We have oil heating, and we have to think about plowing. Once a month, we try to meet at this building, but it can get cold, so it depends on the day. There are minor fixes to the building as well, like a leak in the sink and changing the doors. It needs to be taken care of, and we want to do that.

Q: What do you enjoy about this area?

A: On this street, specifically, there are still so many farms and farmland, [and] they still use the lot beyond this building. They use it to gather hay twice or three times a year.

Q: Are the local farmers connected to the Grange?

A: No, there are residents who have farms that

will come to support our dinners and everything for us. The come to share stories with us and be a part of the group, but other than that, they're separate. We know some of the farm owners really well. I'd let them use the hall, sometimes, but we don't really rent the building out anymore. We used to, but the building can't hold a large capacity frequently, so we only use it occasionally for our fundraisers. There's the Browns' farm down the street, there's a resident who has some cows on his cow farm. There are a couple other little farms around here and there that come to support us.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Crafts, I really enjoy it. I do Christmas ornaments, dog blankets, dog pads, pillows and other things. My sister, who is also a Grange member, has a dog bone business. So we go out and do vendor fairs, craft fairs and farmers markets. We'll sell her treats and all my pet blankets and pillows. We were thinking of possibly having the Grange hold a farmers market. We can, but the area that we have isn't big enough and doesn't have enough parking. We'd have to look into it more and figure some things out.

Q: Have you and your sister always belonged to the Grange together?

A: Oh, yes, though the Junior Grange is no longer — when it was we were in it together. Then we both became members, and we've been members for a long time. We've gotten a book of our membership and the help we've given over 25 years, so now we have to register for 50 years. We'll get a seal for having been in it for 50 years. There are some older and original members, like one lady who's 90, but there are also newer members in their 80s or so.

Q: What challenges does the Grange face?

A: The biggest difficulty is that most of our members are older and in their 80s, so we try to help the community in any way that

we can, but it can be hard to send out volunteers. Mostly because we can't operate at night, a lot of our members can't see well at night, or they just can't go out at night. In the past we've had scholarships at the high school and we sponsored groups in the bicentennial parade, and we've also had different speakers come in, as well. We mostly just try to keep the building alive and running.

Q: Are you thinking of stepping down?

A: I'm not sure, maybe soon. I've always done this, and I enjoy being a part of this group. I'll probably spend more time here, and do more things here. I'll still be a member, and I'll have to do something. Maybe I can start a knitting group or have someone teach crochet, so if someone wants to get out of their house but don't want to go to the Senior Center, they could come here. I don't know, that's an idea to play around with, for sure. My sister already has plans to retire in 2021, so when I retire I'll probably move in with her. We'll do our craft and the Grange together.

Q: What do you love about the Grange?

A: Getting together with everybody and just being able to be with them, social, talking with them. This is a community all its own, and it's nice to have the meeting and discuss the needs of the Grange and the building, but it's ultimately nice to be around familiar faces every once in a while. We share our ideas with each other and we eat, it's always helpful. Also, I like that we're open to new members and always accepting them, not just accepting them into the Grange but accepting them into the little family we've developed. Anyone older than 15 is able to join the Grange and we're always welcoming new and young members.

Whom should we interview next? Who has an interesting job, hobby, or story to tell in Agawam and Feeding Hills? Suggest a "Q & Agawam" subject by emailing [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

LOCAL Opportunity IS KNOCKING

EDITOR POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of editor for two of its weekly publications, the *Journal Register*, which covers Palmer and surrounding towns, and the *Ludlow Register*. This full-time position is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills. They must also be able to manage a staff writer, including copy editing and guiding coverage. The editor is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who enjoys community journalism.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com).

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LOCAL Opportunity IS KNOCKING

STAFF WRITER POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quaboag Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Enthusiasm for community journalism
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced environment

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com).

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# Supermarket holds ‘Marty Party’

Marty, the tall, googly-eyed robot that roams Stop & Shop stores searching for spills and potential hazards, is turning 1. To celebrate, select supermarkets — including the Stop & Shop at 1282 Springfield St., Feeding Hills — will give him a party from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, complete with birthday cake, crafts for kids and giveaways.

Marty the robot is used to identify

hazards and spills on the floor, allowing associates to focus on customers. When the robot detects a potential hazard on the floor, he notifies store associates who take corrective action. He can be found at more than 300 stores across five states. On average, he spots 40 spills at each store per day.

For more information, visit [martyatstopandshop.com](http://martyatstopandshop.com).

# Local artist gives class on alcohol ink

Agawam Community Artists and Artists member Monica Sobczyk will teach a class on painting with alcohol ink on tiles from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29. The class will be held at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

Sobczyk exhibited and sold her tiles this past September at the ACAA’s second annual art show at the Thomas Smith House in Feeding Hills. After painting with alcohol ink on tiles, she then inserts them into keepsake wooden boxes.

The cost for this class is \$35, with participant-purchased supplies. Those who are interested in this workshop should contact Ceil Rossi at 413-207-1247 or [to-carefree2@hotmail.com](mailto:to-carefree2@hotmail.com).

# Parishioner to share Holy Lands trip

Sacred Heart parishioner Susan Scantlen will lead a virtual trip through the Holy Lands later this month.

Scantlen will share images and stories of her two-week visit to Galilee and Jerusalem last November, including side trips to Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Tabgha, Bethany, Jericho, Bethlehem, the Via Dolorosa and Jaffa.

Her presentation is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, in the Parish Center at 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Donations will be accepted to support the Open Pantry, which serves Agawam, Feeding Hills and West Springfield.

# Quarterly property tax bills due Feb. 3

Third-quarter real estate and personal property tax bills for fiscal 2020 are due in the town collector’s office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3.

Bills may be paid in person at Town Hall, 36 Main St., Agawam, or online at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us). Third quarter payment notices were mailed Dec. 31, 2019.

By law, bills were mailed to owners of record as of Jan. 1, 2019. Any new homeowner or anyone who has not received a real estate or personal property tax bill should contact the collector’s office immediately at 413-786-0400, ext. 8218, to obtain the bill amount.

# Valley Eye needs volunteers to read

As a non-profit affiliate of the Massachusetts Reading Network, Valley Eye Radio reads more than 30 different local newspapers and publications, including the Agawam Advertiser News, for broadcast free of charge to the blind, visually impaired and those who are unable to read independently for themselves due to a disability or other condition.

Valley Eye Radio is in the process of expanding its locally produced programming and is looking for people who enjoy

reading aloud and would be able to donate one hour a week of their time, either in the studio at the WGBY building in downtown Springfield, or remotely from their own home, to help their neighbors fight social isolation and stay connected to their local communities.

For more information on joining Valley Eye’s volunteer reader family, call Harold Anderson, programming coordinator, at 413-747-7337 or email [harold@valleyey-radio.org](mailto:harold@valleyey-radio.org).

# Photo show entrant fees rising soon

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library are accepting early-bird entries this week for the 10th annual Open Juried Photography Show.

Submission fees are \$25 per entry by Saturday, Jan. 25. After that date, fees are \$30 for entries until the final deadline of Feb. 1. A prospectus and entry form may be downloaded from [www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends/#FriendsPhotoShow10](http://www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends/#FriendsPhotoShow10).

Show dates are Feb. 3-28. Juried entries will be exhibited at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

Photographers may submit multiple

entries per category, provided separate fees are paid for each entry. Categories include creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. All images must be captured with light-sensitive material (either film or digital). Jury selections will be based on the review of the original images, not digital files. All images must be original, made by the photographer, and cannot be previous entries in Friends shows.

The selection and awards jurors are Sue Fenton and Kevin Fay. For more information, contact Bob Kadis at [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) or 413-789-4814.

# Supper Club returns after Valentine’s

The Agawam Congregational Church Supper Club will host a Post-Valentine’s Evening dinner at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22.

Doors will open at 4:45 p.m. in the church hall at 745 Main St., Agawam.

The meal, catered by Partners Restaurant, will include sumptuous courses of fresh fruit cup, a chef’s bakery choice with butter, roast turkey with stuffing, whipped potato and butternut squash, and chocolate mousse topped with whipped cream and candy valentine’s hearts and served in stemmed champagne glasses.

“Last year’s February supper was such a hit with Partners catering, that we wanted to repeat the same menu and basic theme,” said church member Roberta Page, chairman of the supper clubs.

This year, the \$20 ticket also includes entertainment, “Music of Love” by local singing sensation Alexis Anamisis. There will be free door prizes, as well, Page said.

Tickets will be available until Wednesday, Feb. 19, and may be purchased by calling the church office at 413-786-7111 or Partners Restaurant at 413-786-0975. There will be no take-out or tickets sold at the door. Tickets are also available at the church or Partners in Feeding Hills and

must be purchased in advance.

The church is handicapped accessible and has ample parking.



Partners Restaurant Catering Manager Joseph (Joe) Almeida and Agawam Congregational Church Supper Club chairman Roberta Page review the final menu for the Feb. 22 “Post Valentine’s Evening” at 5 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Old court documents to be destroyed

SPRINGFIELD — Thousands of criminal and civil court files including indictments, complaints, pleadings and judgments dating from 1996 to 1999 are set to be destroyed later this year at the Hampden Superior Court to make room in the archives at the Hall of Justice in Springfield, according to Clerk of Courts Laura Gentile.

Gentile said the project follows her efforts to streamline all facets of the operation, which have included returning \$100,000 cash held as evidence to the state treasury. She noted such files must be kept for 20 years and the cleaning is done every few years.

“We keep files with historical significance, those that are 2 inches thick or

more, and those of people still serving sentences,” Gentile said, noting the Supreme Judicial Court and Judith Fabricant, chief judge of the Superior Court, sanctioned the undertaking.

Gentile said the court is required to keep files that end in double zero and 50.

Files that see greater use, such as those with docket numbers before 2010, will be moved to the basement of the courthouse to permit storage of newly-created files in the third floor office.

The process of destroying the old documents will begin in late February or early March and will continue until the process is completed. For more information, call 413-735-6013.

# Free concert to help veterans cause

All music fans are invited to a free concert this Friday featuring a live performance by Rust.

The band will play the hits of the 1950s through ’80s starting at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, at American Legion Post 185, “The Tank,” 478 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

A raffle will be held to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization that aids injured veterans of the Armed Forces.

# St. John parish picnic this Sunday

St. John the Evangelist Church will host its Winter Picnic 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, at 833 Main St., Agawam.

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will sponsor a raffle and a meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, salads, dessert and beverages. A free will offering will be taken.

Donations are being accepted for raffle prizes and desserts. For more information, call Bill Testicinni at 413-205-7082, or Jack Cappuccilli at 413-222-5999.

# Giving Back

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## Library shows painter's marine artwork

The Agawam Library is exhibiting "Under the Sea with the Artwork of John Matlock" this month. Matlock's art features marine life painted in acrylics and is highlighted in the main gallery of the library's entrance. Matlock, a West Springfield native, has established himself as the top marine life artist in New England and beyond.

The exhibit is available for viewing during the

month of January. Visitors are welcome at the Agawam Public Library during regular open hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists interested in displaying their work at the library should contact Adult Services Librarian Cher Collins at 413-789-1550, ext. 8851, or [ccollins@agawam-library.org](mailto:ccollins@agawam-library.org).



Above: John Matlock's works on display at the Agawam Public Library include, at top, "Red Giant"; and below, "Penguins."

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

Left: From left, "Seals World," "The Dance," "Passing Through" and "Great White" are among the works in John Matlock's exhibit at the Agawam Public Library.

## Sponsors sought for Applause Series

The Agawam Cultural Council has begun fundraising for the 17th season of the Applause Series. Each season, the council offers 10 one-hour events free to the community, relying on the generosity of sponsorships from local businesses, medical groups, elected officials and the general public. Contributions to the Agawam Cultural Council qualify as tax-deductible donations.

Donors can become a Season Sponsor for \$250, a Production Sponsor for \$100, or a Community Partner for donations starting at \$30. Two Production Sponsors will be accepted

for each event. Donors can be both a Season Sponsor and Production Sponsors.

Donors should send their name as they wish it to appear on printed materials, their mailing and email addresses, a phone number and a check made out to Agawam Cultural Council, to Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001. Those preferring to receive a donation form listing all events which can be sponsored should contact Cultural Council Chairman Bob Kadis at [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) or 413-789-4814.

Additional information on the re-

maining events of the current, 16th season of the Applause Series is available at [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org).

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which provides part of its funding. The Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities. There is no charge to join or to serve in the council.

## Armory, Hoop Hall will close temporarily in Feb.

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Springfield Armory National Historic Site visitor center and museum will both close temporarily on Monday, Feb. 3.

The Basketball Hall of Fame will be closed through March 25 as part of the final phase of its \$23 million-plus renovation, which launched in early

2018. This final phase will redevelop the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams with new interactive features, as well as a fully redesigned "High Above Center Court" and an all-new "Honors Ring."

The Armory museum will be closed through March 31 to accommodate \$1.6 million in systems upgrades. Though the museum will be

closed, the grounds — encompassing the STCC campus on State Street in Springfield — will remain open. In addition, the park ranger staff will collaborate with the Springfield Museums and the Springfield Downtown Visitor Center to offer special programs. More information regarding programs and events will be posted at [www.nps.gov/spar](http://www.nps.gov/spar).

## Writer's workshop now meets on Tuesdays

Award-winning author and Agawam native Katherine Anderson is hosting an Adult Writer's Workshop monthly at the Agawam Public Library.

For 2020, this workshop will be held on a new date, the last Tuesday of each month. The next workshop meeting is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28.

The workshop is open to writers of all experience levels and all genres. Participants will learn the basics

of self-publishing, find opportunities for submission to magazines, literary journals and presses. Writers will also assemble a portfolio and the basics of a query package for submissions and publication. There will be opportunities to workshop for peer and host feedback.

Space is limited; to register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org). The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

## Sacred Heart Parish blood drive on Saturday

Sacred Heart Parish will host a Baystate Health Center blood drive from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. To sign up, call Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco, RN, at 413-786-8200, ext. 3.

Sacred Heart Parish blood drives have now saved 756 adult lives or up to 1,410 babies since the church on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills began hosting in July 2016.

## Tasting event to benefit Jimmy Fund on Friday

Thirty of the Pioneer Valley's top restaurants will participate in Chefs for Jimmy this Friday to raise funds for cancer research and care.

For an admission fee of \$100, diners can take a tasting tour of as many restaurants as they like during the event, which runs 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, at Chez Josef, 176 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam. All proceeds go to the Jimmy Fund at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

This year's theme is "One Night of Peace, Love and Food." In addition to the food samples, the event will also feature a silent auction and "an opportunity drawing."

Tickets may be purchased at [www.jimmyfund.org/events/cancer-fund-raising-events/chefs-for-jimmy](http://www.jimmyfund.org/events/cancer-fund-raising-events/chefs-for-jimmy). Since 1990, this annual event has raised more than \$1.8 million for the Jimmy Fund.

Other participating restaurants include 350

Grill, Burgundy Brook Café, Cerrato's Pastry Shop, Chez Josef, Dana's Main Street Tavern, Delaney's Grill and The Mick, Elegant Affairs, Fazio's Ristorante, Johnny's Tavern, Leone's Restaurant, Longmeadow Country Club, Max's Tavern, Murphy's Pub, Nadim's Downtown, Nina's Cookies, Nosh Restaurant & Café, On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, Pierce Brothers Coffee Roasters, Pintu's Indian Restaurant, Rondeau's Dairy Bar, Shortstop Bar & Grill, Steaming Tender, Storowton Tavern Restaurant & Carriage House, The Student Prince and The Fort, Tekoa Country Club, Chandler Steakhouse, the Starting Gate at GreatHorse, Tokyo Asian Cuisine, and Tucker's Restaurant.

Chefs for Jimmy is presented by Winer Levsky Group of UBS Financial Services Inc. and hosted by the Jimmy Fund Council of Western Massachusetts in memory of Neal Webber and Stan Winer.

## Blood drive slated next week at Agawam High

The Future Teachers of America at Agawam High School will host a blood drive with Baystate Health on Friday, Jan. 31.

The Baystate Health Bloodmobile will be at AHS

collecting blood donations from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program at 413-794-4600.

## Lunch to aid F.H. Grange

Community Grange 382 of Feeding Hills will hold a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, in the Grange hall at 47 N. West St., Feeding Hills.

For a \$7 donation (\$3.50 for children under 12), diners will enjoy a homemade

soup, sandwich, dessert and choice of beverage. Reservations are suggested at 413-789-2061.

Proceeds of the luncheon will benefit Grange activities. In the event of inclement weather, the luncheon will be postponed to Feb. 22.

## SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS

Direct from your phone or tablet!



As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

# AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



# Schools & Youth

## AHS COUNSELING BULLETIN

### College acceptances

Congratulations are in order to these students for earning these post-secondary options: Arianna Albano, Merrimack College, Roger Williams University, Suffolk University, University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, Westfield State University; Mia Albano, Elms College, Endicott College, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont; Nataly Arbelaez, United States Air Force; Ruby Chenevert, Elms College, Westfield State University; Emma Gale, Lasell University, Quinnipiac University, Western New England University; Maddy Mizanoglu, Salve Regina University; Mansi Patel, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Suffolk University; Getuar Preniqi, Holyoke Community College, Springfield College; LoredanaRandazzo, Bridgewater State University, Endicott College, Pace University, Quinnipiac University, Roger Williams University, Salve Regina University, St. Anselm College, University at Albany, Western New England University, Westfield State University; Angelina Shayda, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; Emily Smidt, Bay Path University, Central Connecticut State University, Framingham State University, Johnson & Wales University, Stockton University, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, Westfield State University; Faisal Syed, Holyoke Community College; and Jessica Zhao, Suffolk University, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of Massachusetts-Boston, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Western New England University, Westfield State University.

### Scholarship information

Students should see their counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application. Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2020 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available in Naviance, are due Friday, Feb. 14. The Kyle J.W. Hendricks Scholarship Fund, also known as the Kulundrux Foundation, provides a scholarship to support a student at AHS with a passion for a trade or the arts. The purpose of the scholarship is to shift the attention away from the student enrolled in every club or after-school activity. In the spirit of spreading Kyle's light, the scholarship fund would like to shine the light on a student who may have never thought trade school or college was an option. Scholarship applications, which are available in Naviance, must be sent to Ashley Hendricks/Guidance Department by April 24. The student who best qualifies will be awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Any questions regarding the scholarship can be directed to Ashley Hendricks at Ashley.hndrcks@gmail.com. Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants are pleased to be able to continue with their scholarship program for the 13th year. This scholarship will be awarding up to \$1,000 to the winner(s) each year. Deadline is June 12. Students will submit an essay on the topic that appears at [abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm](http://abbottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm). AES Engineers is offering \$500 scholarships to motivated high school seniors to help in the furthering of their education. Students are not required to be taking engineering courses to be eligible. More info: [aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm](http://aesengineers.com/scholarships.htm). Deadline Oct. 5. Each year the Better Business Bureau of Central New England's Consumer Education Foundation awards four \$1,000 Barbara J. Sinnott Students of Integrity Scholarships to be used for the expenses

associated with the costs of attending college. The Students of Integrity Scholarships are awarded to four graduating high school students who demonstrate a commitment to the ideals of the Better Business Bureau and reside in the communities BBB of Central New England serves. Applications are available at [bbb.org/central-western-massachusetts/programs-services/bbb-scholarships](http://bbb.org/central-western-massachusetts/programs-services/bbb-scholarships) and are due no later than Jan. 31. The Charitable and Educational Trust of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Order Sons of Italy in America, is offering 20 scholarships (maximum value of \$1,000) to eligible high school seniors. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 1. Visit [osiama.org/scholarship](http://osiama.org/scholarship) for details. The Henry David Thoreau Foundation selects seniors from the state of Massachusetts interested in environmental studies to receive up to \$20,000 for tuition to the college of their choice. Students can study many different majors such as oceanography, green architecture, conservation biology, and alternative energy. Please visit [thoreauscholar.org](http://thoreauscholar.org) to learn more. Applications are due Feb. 1. Big Y Scholarship applications will be available until Feb. 1. The program awards over 300 scholarships each year, totaling more than \$250,000. All Big Y Scholarships recognize academic merit and achievement. Applications are available only online at [bigy.com](http://bigy.com). The Red Pine Scholarship awards to as much as \$20,000 annually to students from low- to middle-income families in Massachusetts, for tuition assistance, mentoring, and other flexible financial supports. More information and application instructions are available at [tpi.org/scholarship/red-pine-scholars-program](http://tpi.org/scholarship/red-pine-scholars-program). Applications are due Feb. 14. The Yawkey Scholars Program is designed to make college affordable for talented and motivated students from Massachusetts. It provides a four-year renewable tuition scholarship to a Massachusetts private college. Students must meet specific financial guidelines to be eligible. Applications are available at [grantinterface.com/yawkey/common/logon.aspx](http://grantinterface.com/yawkey/common/logon.aspx) and are due Feb. 14. Direct any questions to Elaines Pena at 617-338-5897 or [yawkey@tpi.org](mailto:yawkey@tpi.org). Applications are now available for the Robert Bruno "5K Grand Sorriso" Gold Scholarship, created to honor Robert Bruno and his love of golf. Scholarship amounts are \$5,000 and \$2,000 and will be awarded to graduating AHS seniors who attended Agawam schools and who have demonstrated excellent character and involvement with the AHS Golf Team. Skill level in playing golf is not a criterion. Application forms and instructions are available in Naviance and must be postmarked on or before Feb. 28. The William R. Rooney Scholarship is available to high school seniors from Hampden County who have been on an IEP or 504 plan for two years. Visit [horacesmithfund.org](http://horacesmithfund.org) for an application. Applicants must identify their application as specifically for the William R. Rooney Scholarship. The deadline is March 15. The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available to residents to Hampden County who are members of the senior class at their local public or private secondary schools. Awards will be made on the basis of all available information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Awards will be continued through the four-year course if the student's record and need justify such continuance. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. See [horacesmithfund.org](http://horacesmithfund.org) for details. The deadline is March 15. Professional Women in Construction, Connecticut Chapter, will offer approximately 15 scholarships to students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in construction, construction management, interior design, architecture, landscape design, or civil, mechanical, structural, and electrical engineering. The application is available at [pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/](http://pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/) and is due March 25.

The town solicited bids for a solar farm operator in order to raise funds for the redevelopment of the rest of Tuckahoe Turf Farm as a public park. In October 2018, a mayoral task force recommended paying for park facilities at Tuckahoe by leasing part of the land as a solar farm. Marc Strange, the town's planning and economic development director, said last week that town officials are still working on a development plan for the park. Ideas mentioned in the past have included walking trails, sports fields, and use of the large pond on the property. The solar array site lies in the path of the proposed Route 57 extension. A plan to extend the expressway from South Westfield Street to the Southwick town line was drawn up decades ago, but apart from the state buying and demolishing a couple South West Street houses where the highway would have crossed, no action has been taken. The Planning Board's 3-0 vote did not include its chairman, Mark Paleologopoulos, who abstained from the discussion. Paleologopoulos is an abutter of the project site.

Applications are now available for the Emily K. Dushane Memorial Foundation Scholarship. Applicants must be graduating from Agawam High School in 2020 and must be attending a college or university (full-time) this fall. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by April 1. Applications are now available for the Franco Liquori Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be an Agawam High School graduate and must have attended Benjamin Phelps School. In addition, the candidate must demonstrate need and academic ability. Scholarships will be made to one male and one female. The committee may require a personal interview. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted by April 1. The Agawam Rotary Club awards the Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial Scholarship scholarships to seniors from Agawam and West Springfield. The Selection Committee will choose students who best exemplify Rotary's principal motto, "Service Above Self," and who show leadership abilities and a desire to make a contribution to their home, school, community and country. The applicant must be a high school senior residing in Agawam or West Springfield and be attending or scheduled to attend an accredited academic or technical college in the month of September following graduation from high school. Applications must be forwarded no later than April 1. Please see Naviance for an application. The Agawam Rotary Club awards scholarships to seniors residing in Agawam, including the Beverly M. Ladizki and David A. Ladizki Scholarship. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior residing in Agawam with intent to attend law school. Applicants must be scheduled to attend an accredited academic college or university in the month of September following graduation from high school. The application deadline is April 1 and is available in Naviance. The Agawam Soccer Association Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer as a player and/or other ASA soccer-related activity such as coaching or refereeing. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1. The Agawam Soccer Association Sullivan Family Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer as a player and/or other ASA soccer-related activity such as coaching or refereeing. Applicants

must have had a parent or close relative who participated in Agawam Soccer as a coach, assistant coach, board member, or tournament volunteer. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1. The Agawam Soccer Association Christopher Knight Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in the ASA soccer program. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1. The Agawam Soccer Association Rich Parolo Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer for at least four years, AHS soccer for at least two years, and participated in extra-curricular soccer-related activities such as coaching, assistant coaching or refereeing. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1. The Andrew Gallano Scholarship for the Arts will be awarded to an Agawam resident going to college to pursue a degree in the cultural arts, including (but not limited to) painting, drama, languages, music, dance, journalism, architecture, and graphics. Applications are posted in Naviance and are due by April 1. The Arthur J. Leary Scholarship will be presented to an Agawam resident who will be pursuing a degree in business management beginning the September after high school graduation. See Naviance for an application. Applications must be received by April 1. The Charles H. Heyl Vocational/Technical Scholarship/Grant is designed to financially assist an individual in obtaining an education related to a vocational/technical career or to grant an individual the amount of the scholarship for the purpose of purchasing tools or equipment to become established in his/her trade. The applicant need not be a high school senior. The applicant must be a resident of Agawam. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted no later than April 1. The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation is pleased to invite Agawam High School to participate in its annual scholarship awards program. One applicant will be selected to receive a \$3,000 scholarship award. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted to the Counseling Center no later than April 1. Applications are then reviewed by the counseling department to ensure you meet the Foundation's eligibility requirements, with the winner notified during the month of May.

### TUCKAHOE ■ from page 1

that had been dumped on the site by Agawam's Department of Public Works after a violent October 2011 snowstorm. "It's a construction area, but it's a short duration," said Chrisos. The rest of the construction work will consist of attaching panels to the frames and hooking them into the electrical grid. The construction start date will depend upon how soon Eversource, which owns the local electrical grid, can approve a connection for the new solar array. Once operating, the solar array will be visited by maintenance crews regularly, but no major work is expected during the 20-year lease period. The equipment is designed to last 35 years or more. ConEd will post a bond providing the town enough money to remove the solar equipment at the end of the lease. ConEd says the project will generate up to \$2.6 million in rents to the town over the 20-year lease, and up to \$1 million in tax revenue during that period.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Public broadcaster

4. Hit lightly

7. Keyboard key

10. Grain

11. Make a mistake

12. To the \_\_ degree

13. Endure without complaint

15. Chinese-American actress Ling

16. Edible stomach lining

19. Sunrooms

21. Feared

23. Most eager

24. Excessive chatting session

25. MLB ace

26. Major Central European river

27. Muscular weaknesses

30. Where seedlings germinate

34. Former monetary

unit of the EU

35. Personal ads abbreviation

36. Mythical animal

41. Members of Orthodox Jewish sect

45. German city

46. Algerian coastal city

47. Military men

50. Salt of sulfuric acid

54. Rhododendrons

55. Mixture

56. Recommended quantities

57. 007's creator

59. Men

60. Kids need it

61. Midway between east and east-northeast

62. OJ trial judge

63. Yes vote

64. USDA branch that manages the FCIC

65. Create with cloth

CLUES DOWN

1. English seaport

2. What's owed

3. Sound systems

4. Elections feature them

5. Southern constellation

6. London and Brooklyn are two

7. One-time Ugandan capital

8. Attacked with bombs

9. Rebuke

13. Expression of disappointment

14. A way to work the soil

17. The human foot

18. Sun up in New York

20. A small island

22. Abnormal rattling sound

27. Make lively

28. A team's best pitcher

29. It goes on the floor

31. Not good

32. Peyton's little brother

33. Barrier that holds back water

37. Move quickly

38. Deteriorate with age

39. Colorless crystalline compound

40. Cheekier

41. Expresses praise or joy

42. Famed boxing promoter

43. Cured sausages

44. Fill with air or gas

47. Angry

48. Chemistry prefix

49. Practitioner of Jamaican religion

51. Softly bright or radiant

52. Buffer solution used to separate nucleic acids

53. First responder group

58. Defensive nuclear weapon

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 11



# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### Bridge incentive a boon for town

Anything that gets us through the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge faster is a welcome change — including the recently announced \$1.5 million state incentive payment to finish the construction work 10 months earlier than originally promised.

Though everyone agreed that the heavily traveled 1946 bridge needed replacement, one of the chief complaints about the project as it was beginning in late 2018 was the anticipated timeline: nearly four years of reduced capacity while workers demolished and rebuilt first one half of the bridge, then the other. Traffic between Memorial Avenue in West Springfield and three principal Agawam thoroughfares — Main, Springfield and Suffield streets — would be choked down to one lane each way through spring 2022.

Traffic jams would be worst, critics predicted, during the annual Eastern States Exposition in the fall. The Big E was already an annual headache for local commuters and weekend shoppers, as each new record-setting crowd at the fairgrounds on Memorial Avenue, adjacent to the bridge itself, meant more cars taking “shortcuts” through Agawam and fairgoers crawling along Agawam streets looking for a parking spot. Reducing the capacity of the bridge would turn slowdowns into standstills, Agawam and West Side residents feared.

Last year’s Big E seems to have avoided the worst predictions, but with attendance rising every year, that’s no guarantee for 2020 and 2021. That’s why it’s such good news that the state has agreed to offer Northern Construction an incentive to get the job done faster. By working nights and weekends, the contractor plans to have the project completed by August 2021 — soon enough that all five lanes of the rebuilt bridge, along with new turn lanes and wider intersections at the Main-Springfield-Suffield and Suffield-Walnut crossings, should be open in time for next year’s Big E.

Getting through the 2020 Big E will still be a challenge, with only half the bridge open. Not having to endure the hardship for a third straight year, however, is welcome news.

An earlier end to the bridge project has other implications, as well. Two of Agawam’s most prominent undeveloped properties, the former Agawam Motel site on Suffield Street and the former Games & Lanes on Walnut Street Extension, are unlikely to attract new tenants as long as traffic in that neighborhood is a mess. Getting the bridge done faster probably means getting these two lots redeveloped sooner. Redevelopment means more than the civic pride in replacing an eyesore with new construction. It also means jobs and tax revenue — potentially a tangible return on the \$1.5 million state investment.

For this we have the mayors of Agawam and West Springfield, William Sappelli and Will Reichelt, to thank. They have been lobbying the state for an early-completion incentive since the project began, and kept the pressure on even after most folks adjusted to the new reality and accepted the four-year schedule.

Assuming the contractor earns the incentive — and with promises to bring in more workers, work nights and work weekends, it looks like they’re trying — we’re down to just a little over a year and a half before the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge is fully reopened and those jersey walls and orange cones can be put in the rear-view mirror.

Delivering less time stuck in traffic, and a shorter path to an expanded tax base, this incentive, like the initial \$21.5 million bridge reconstruction award, will be money well spent.

*What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).*



## Letters to the Editor

### Meals tax money should be set aside for emergencies

I agree with Mr. Marieb (Letters to the Editor, Agawam Advertiser News, Jan. 6) when he stated, Where is the money from the 3/4 of a percent increase in meal tax? Mr. Marieb stated it was estimated to be a half million dollars generated!

I never liked the idea that it went into the general fund. I have always thought it should have gone into a special line-item budget.

Now we have no money allocated for special projects such as the \$50,000 needed for Senior Center generator. or any oth-

er projects, because it was not budgeted for it. Maybe the town needs to rethink making a special line item with the meal tax for special projects not budgeted for.

**Diane Arventos**  
Agawam

### Columnist promised he wouldn't revisit '23 debate

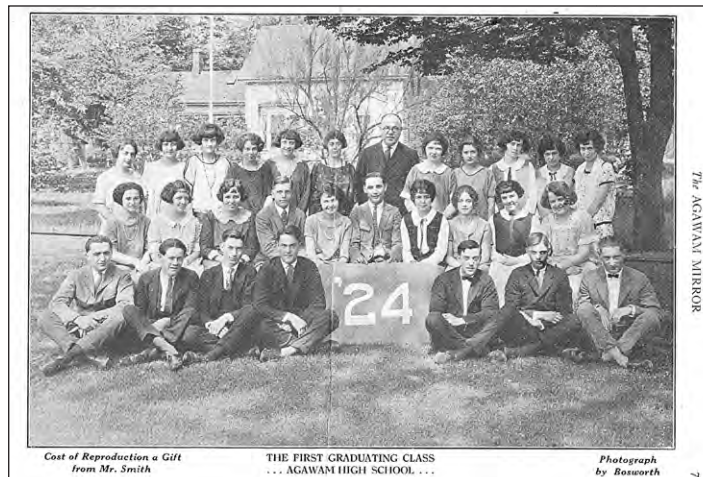
The recent “Yesterday’s Hometown News” article about Agawam High’s first graduating class (Agawam Advertiser News, Jan. 16, page 6) should not have been written. That’s because Walt Willard wrote a column in May of last year titled “Our 1923 Graduates,” in which the first paragraph of that column read as follows:

“If you promise to read this entire column, I promise to never write about this again.”

Well, it took only a little over eight months for Walt to break his promise, proving that philosopher George Santayana was right when he said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

To describe the arguments made in the recent column, I’ll use the same two words that poet T.S. Eliot used after reading Thomas Hardy’s “Far from the Madding Crowd”: “scarcely edifying.” Over the years, more than a few Agawam High class presidents have made mistakes as did Creighton Abrams when calculating the number of commencement exercises held before that of the current class.

Walt continues to assert that diplomas must have been awarded to 1923 graduates, but he hasn’t been able to supply the name of a single graduate. Unlike the 1924 Agawam Town Report, which list-



ed by name the 27 students who graduated June 12, 1924, the 1923 Report doesn’t mention anything about diplomas being awarded to so-called 1923 graduates. My point is that there is plenty of proof, including the attached photo, that the class of 1924 was the first to graduate, but virtually no proof that there were any 1923 graduates. If you look at the right-hand border of the photo, you’ll see that the photo was taken from the Agawam Mirror, the school newspaper.

Readers who have interest in this subject are encouraged to visit the reference section of the Agawam Public Library (750 Cooper St.). Ask at the desk for the large binder titled “The First

Graduating Class.” Larry Scherpa, Agawam High class of 1965, has compiled a database of all 6,592 Agawam High School students who graduated from 1924 through 1974. The graduates are listed in alphabetical order. Each student’s graduation year is shown, but the list is not in order by year of graduation. It’s significant that the database’s earliest year is 1924. Looking through the list you will find the names of people who graduated in 1924 but none for 1923. That’s because Larry couldn’t find anyone who graduated in 1923. That says it all.

**Mike Marieb**  
Feeding Hills

### Donors helped bring Christmas to needy children

I am writing to thank Feeding Hills residents for sharing the true meaning of Christmas with children in need this past holiday season.

Because of the generosity of donors in Feeding Hills and across the United States, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse, collected more than 8.9 million shoebox gifts in 2019. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2019, the ministry is now sending 10,569,405 shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Through shoeboxes — packed

with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items — Feeding Hills volunteers brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God’s love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 178 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories since 1993.

It’s not too late for people to make a difference. Though drop-

off locations serving Feeding Hills are closed until Nov. 16-23, 2020, information about year-round volunteer opportunities can also be found at [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ) or by calling 518-437-0690.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this global project — many who do so year after year. These simple gifts, packed with love, send a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

**Dana Williams**  
Operation Christmas Child  
Boone, N.C.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).

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# Schools & Youth

## Scouts host Klondike Derby in town

Recently, School Street Park was transformed from tranquil greenspace into the fictional western town of Scouts Bluff as the park hosted the Klondike Derby for the General Knox District of the Western Massachusetts Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Klondike Derby is an annual event held by many BSA councils and districts since 1949. The event is based on the heritage of the Klondike gold rush and is held during the winter months. The Klondike Derby gives Scouts the opportunity to build teamwork by working in patrols, or in this year's case, "gangs," to complete challenges.

During this year's event, School Street Park hosted both male and female troops from Palmer, East Longmeadow and Springfield. The groups braved the cold weather to compete in team-building challenges by cutting logs at Star Mill, picking off tin cans at BSA Corral, fishing for snappers at the Appalachia River or saving a baby bird at Eagle's Landing.

Jeff Heinze, an adult leader with Troop 77, which is chartered by St. John the



Shawn Newsome, an Eagle Scout with Troop 77, tries his hand at using a whip to pick off cans at BSA Corral during one of the Klondike Derby events at School Street Park. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Evangelist Parish in Agawam, organized this year's event. Upon reflecting on the day's adventures, Heinze emphasized that the event would not have been possible without all of the support that he received from by both current and former youth and adult members of Troop 77, as well as representatives from the Order of the Arrow's Pocumtuc Lodge.

When Heinze presented the idea of hosting this year's Klondike Derby in Agawam, members of the troop were eager to assist with the event. As "deputy sheriffs" in Scouts Bluff, scouts and adult leaders of Troop 77, as well as members of the OA, kept law and order throughout the day, even as the snow moved in during the event's Klondike Derby race, where

participants must race their homemade Klondike sleds through a variety of obstacles.

At the conclusion of the Klondike Derby, Troop 5164 from Palmer, which is a girls troop, was presented with the most silver horseshoes in recognition of their many victories during the day's challenges and for earning the most gold nuggets in Scouts Bluff.

Scouting is open to boys and girls from kindergarten (Lion Scouts) through age 18 (Scouts BSA). The aims of scouting are to assist youth with character development, leadership development, citizenship training and personal fitness. A youth member may join the scouts at any time during the year, but Lion Scouts must be entering kindergarten in the fall to be eligible to participate in the fall program.

For information regarding becoming a Cub Scout (kindergarten through grade 5) or a Scout BSA (grade 6 through high school), contact Jeff Heinze at jheinze114@comcast.net or the Western Massachusetts Council at [www.wmascouting.org](http://www.wmascouting.org).

## School Lunch

**AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL**  
High schoolers can also substitute a pizza meal for their entrée.

**Monday, Jan. 27:** Popcorn chicken, roasted sweet potatoes, seasoned broccoli, garlic knot; or loaded nachos, seasoned ground beef, lettuce, tomato, salsa, cheese, corn and blackbean salad.

**Tuesday, Jan. 28:** Chicken and waffles with syrup, hash browns, assorted muffins; or grilled cheese and tomato soup, Goldfish crackers, tater tots.

**Wednesday, Jan. 29:** Chicken fillet wrap with assorted sauce, lettuce, tomato, cheese, side of coleslaw.

**Thursday, Jan. 30:** Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing; or pasta with meatballs, garlic knot, seasoned vegetables.

**Friday, Jan. 31:** Spicy chicken sandwich, curly fries, seasoned carrots; or chicken parmesan grinder, celery sticks with ranch, potato wedges.

**AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Monday, Jan. 27:** Popcorn chicken, steamed rice, peas.

**Tuesday, Jan. 28:** Mozzarella sticks, whipped potatoes, corn.

**Wednesday, Jan. 29:** Pasta with meat sauce, garlic knot, green beans.

**Thursday, Jan. 30:** Chicken patty, reduced-fat Doritos, chickpea salad.

**Friday, Jan. 31:** Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, cookie.

**ROBERTA DOERING SCHOOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**  
**Monday, Jan. 27:** Chicken nuggets, tater tots, corn.

**Tuesday, Jan. 28:** Hamburger or cheeseburger, chips, carrots with ranch dressing.

**Wednesday, Jan. 29:** Pasta with meatballs, green beans, garlic knot.

**Thursday, Jan. 30:** Mozzarella sticks, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots.

**Friday, Jan. 31:** Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, cookie.

**BREAKFAST**  
The daily breakfast entrée menu was not available at press time. All breakfasts include assorted cold cereal, muffins and pastries, cheese sticks, fresh fruit and orange juice.

**Serving times:** High school, 7 a.m.; junior high, 7:15 a.m.; Granger, 7:55 a.m.; Doering, 8:10 a.m.; Phelps, 8:20 a.m.; Robinson Park, 8:30 a.m.; Clark, 8:35 a.m.

## Winter Reading Program runs to Feb.

Reading logs are available for the Agawam Public Library's Winter Reading Program, which began Tuesday.

Children and teenagers are encouraged to sign up for the program, in which they track their reading through Feb. 22. When kids reach their goal, they earn a free book to keep.

Other programs include a drop-in scav-

enger hunt around the Children's Room and a special guessing game during school vacation week in February. For more information, visit the Children's Room in the library at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, or contact Children's Librarian Pam Weingart at 413-789-1550 or [pweingart@agawamlibrary.org](mailto:pweingart@agawamlibrary.org).

## Tech career program nets \$35K grant

State officials recently awarded Agawam High School with a \$34,772 grant for its Manufacturing Innovation Pathway program.

Part of a new focus on technical education, the program matches high schoolers with actual manufacturing businesses in town to show them where the study of trade skills can lead, and to give them experience in the business.

Agawam is partnering with the MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board and multiple employer partners, including the Western Mass. Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association, Peerless Precision, Governors America Corporation, Mechanical Plastics, OMG Roofing Products, Ben Franklin Man-

ufacturing, EBTEC Corporation, and DFF Corporation. Students will take courses at Springfield Technical Community College. The program is expected to serve 466 students when fully enrolled.

"These early career programs provide students a head-start in learning and thinking about future career options so that they are able to make informed decisions about what they want to pursue in college and beyond," said Gov. Charlie Baker. "We are proud to continue to invest in these important programs that can shape a student's future success."

Agawam was one of 14 high schools to receive Innovation Pathways grants from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

## Power company offers scholarships

Tenaska and Berkshire Power Company LLC are sponsoring \$4,500 in academic scholarships for college-bound Agawam High School seniors again this year.

Tenaska is the owner of Berkshire Power Company LLC and its 229-megawatt natural gas-fueled power plant in Agawam. Tenaska manages scholarship programs in communities where its generating facilities are located. To date, approximately \$760,000 in scholarships have been given out to roughly 885 students across the United States.

Berkshire Power Company instituted an annual scholarship program in 2018-19, awarding \$4,500 in scholarships to three college-bound high school seniors last year.

Agawam High School students graduating in spring 2020 who will be attending

a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution may apply. Applications can be obtained from high school guidance counselors and must be submitted no later than Feb. 14. Three \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded.

"At Tenaska, we understand the importance of education and its role in future success," said Robert Bell, plant manager at Berkshire Power Company. "We are proud to support these students and help them become future leaders of our community."

A committee at Tenaska's headquarters will select the college-bound seniors to receive the scholarships. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate that they are prepared for college study, have good character and rank in the top 50 percent of their class.

## CAMPUS NOTES

**American International College:** Carly Evelyn, of Feeding Hills, received the Outstanding Achievement in Occupational Therapy Award during the American International College Academic Awards ceremony in spring 2019. She graduated in May 2019 with a bachelor's degree in occupational science.

**Assumption College:** Taylor DeGeorge of Feeding Hills, a member of the class of 2023, and Amanda Guerette of Agawam, a member of the class of 2020, were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Assumption College in Worcester.

**Becker College:** Brandon Booth of Agawam, a psychology major with a mental health counseling concentration, was named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Becker College in Worcester.

**Dean College:** Amanda Delore and Isabella Yacovone of Agawam, and Brandon Richardson of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Dean College in Franklin, Mass.

**Fitchburg State:** Gianna M. Perella of Agawam and Tyler J. Barrington, Cameron D. Barrington, Joshua D. Goggin and Nicole L. Langevin, all of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Fitchburg State University.

**Pensacola Christian:** Alli Loftus of Feeding Hills as named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Pensacola Christian College in Pensacola, Fla.

**Springfield College:** Several local students were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Springfield College. Agawam honorees were Alliason Wheeler, who is studying health care management; Cassandra Ayre, health science, pre-physician assistant;

Glendy Baez, rehabilitation and disability study; Jarrod Lemke, physical education and health, family and consumer science; Cassidy Patterson, health science, pre-physician assistant; and Samantha Stratton, physical education. Feeding Hills honorees were Bianca Culhane, health science, pre-physician assistant; Steven Ludtke, physical education; Carina Nesen, health science, pre-physician assistant; and Sarah Roulier, psychology.

**Thomas College:** Emily Bartlett of Feeding Hills was named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Thomas College in Waterville, Maine.

**UConn:** Meghan Gendron, Sarah Krafcik and Khush Patel of Agawam, and Jillian Scherpa and Sammi Swistak of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

**Western New England University:** Three local students graduated from Western New England University in Springfield on Aug. 15, 2019. Gideon Kamukala of Agawam earned a bachelor of science in business administration, concentrating in finance; Durgaprasad Maddiseti earned a master of science in engineering, concentrating in mechanical engineering; and Izabela A. Collier of Feeding Hills earned a master of business administration in general business.

*Campus Notes are compiled from school press releases and parent submissions. To share your student achievement news, ask your school's press office to send an email to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).*

## Our Back Pages

From yesteryear's editions of the Agawam Advertiser News, compiled by Michael Ballway.

**A year ago:** Members of First Baptist Church elected the Rev. J. Willard Cofield Jr. as their new pastor on Jan. 27, 2019. Cofield is the 35th elected pastor in the history of the congregation, which dates back to 1790. He had been serving as interim pastor, in addition to a community outreach role for the Greater Springfield YMCA.

**Five years ago:** A little over a year after the film came out, characters from the animated movie "Frozen" came to life at Heritage Woods

in Agawam on Jan. 24, 2015. Children wore broad smiles as they were invited to take photos, dance and sing with "Elsa and Anna," in addition to working on crafts.

**Ten years ago:** Scott Brown took almost twice as many votes as Martha Coakley in Agawam, helping boost him to a close — and surprising — Republican victory in the statewide special election on Jan. 19, 2010, to fill the seat vacated by the late U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy. Though his statewide margin was 52 percent to 47 percent, Brown got 6,726 votes in Agawam, against 3,660 for Coakley.





Rose Dupre welcomes kids to the first-ever Holiday club meeting on Jan. 17 in the Children's Room at the Agawam Public Library. PHOTOS BY SHELBY MACRI



Participants in the Holiday Club activity included, from left, Sophia Govoni, Olivia Govoni, Juliette Berube, Lydia Santana, Harper Forsell and Bruce Bertone-Gross.



Juliette Berube makes a paper lantern to celebrate Chinese New Year at the library.



Rose Dupre, from the Children's Room staff, hands out little red bags as a symbol of the red packets filled with money that children in China receive during their New Year's celebration. Checking their bags are Juliette Berube, left, and Harper Forsell.



Harper Forsell, left, and Bruce Bertone-Gross try their luck at a game involving picking up beans with chopsticks.

HOLIDAY ■ from page 1

chopsticks?" Juliette Berube said. "It works best with noodles. I think noodles are easy."

"I have tried them, with a brownie. It's easy, you just stick it into the brownie," Lydia Santana said.

"I did it with an Oreo, I dipped the Oreo in the milk with the chopsticks," Bruce Bertone-Gross said.

When the hour-long program ended, children gathered their projects and activities to bring home, and Dupre added a red bag — symbolizing another Chinese New Year tradition, in which parents give red bags of money to their children.

Dupre hopes last week's program was the start of a tradition of its own for the Agawam Public Library. She plans to hold "Holiday Club" events every month, each time focusing on a different holiday, its backstory and its culture.

"This gives them a little nit of information about the holidays, but also a lot of fun things to do with it," Dupre said. "Like crafts, games, puzzles, music, and more. Each holiday will come up with something."

Each Holiday Club event will be open to 10 participants, with advance registration required. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, and can be reached at 413-786-1550.

Signups are open now for the February Holiday Club, a Valentine's Day celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Registration for future months' programs will begin on the 15th of the preceding month.



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## Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*



# Schools & Youth

## Awareness of social injustice fuels teen's desire to serve

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

**H**elen Sanders gets very angry when she sees people with "billions and billions of dollars" and then sees people starving to death.

But unlike many people who just talk about what they see as injustices, Sanders works to change what she feels is wrong.

"I've always felt there was something extremely wrong about that imbalance, and I've tried to act on that," said the 14-year-old Agawam Junior High School student.

Last Saturday, Sanders engaged with other eighth graders from around the state who also want to make positive changes to the world. As the school's 2020 "ambassador" to a year-long community statewide service project called Project 351, she joined 370 others for a day of service projects in Boston. She called it "an incredible experience."

Project 351's core values are kindness, compassion, humility and gratitude. Student ambassadors are chosen for their open minds and hearts, respect for others, enthusiasm, and a passion to make a difference.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, First Lady Lauren Baker, and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito met with the ambassadors at Faneuil Hall on Jan. 18 to help launch Project 351's 10th year of community service. Most students then headed out for team-based community service projects at sites across Boston. The annual youth-led initiative honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Every year, it holds a launch event on the weekend celebrating the slain civil rights leader's birthday.

Because of an approaching snowstorm and the need to leave early, Sanders and other Western Massachusetts students stayed at Faneuil Hall. They worked together to make blankets for homeless children and design valentines for bereaved military families in the state.

Realizing that community service is a way to fight back against the inequalities Sanders sees in the world, she was "thrilled" to be chosen as a Project 351 ambassador.

The opportunity to make an impact through its community service projects "meant the world" to Sanders. She credits her parents, Regina and Dave Sanders, for sparking her interest in community service.

"As a family, we like to give back and to be of service whenever possible," said Dave Sanders. "Giving back is quite often the topic of discussion between us. It's very clear this is a topic near and dear to Helen's heart."

Her mother, a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, encouraged



Helen Sanders holds one of several pairs of shoes she donated for a shoe drive held at Agawam Junior High School this fall. She is this year's Agawam participant in the statewide Project 351 service corps. PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

Sanders when she was a child to help those less fortunate. One project was to collect old pajamas to deliver to homeless shelters.

Regina Sanders said participating in community service as a teenager will help shape and direct her daughter's future path.

"Helen is genuine. She believes in fairness and inclusion. She is a joyful spirit. I can't wait to see what Helen has in store for the world," Regina said.

Antonia Moore, her English teacher and the Project 351 adviser, describes Sanders as an "enthusiastic, passionate, and progressive young woman" who puts all of her energy into making a positive difference at her school and in her community.

Sanders personal motivation for community service, however, is social injustice. "I'm very politically involved, and there's this rage that burns inside me when I see injustice," she said.

As a sixth grader, Sanders heard news reports about children being separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"I grew so upset. There was something so wrong about that," said Sanders. She decided to learn more about political and



During the launch of Project 351's year-long initiative of statewide youth community service projects, Agawam's Helen Sanders worked with other student ambassadors to make blankets for homeless children and design valentines for bereaved military families in the state. SUBMITTED PHOTO

social issues because of all the "wrongs" she saw and heard about.

"People without access to clean water while billionaires wear \$10,000 necklaces, transgender people being laid off from their jobs



Helen Sanders, 14, shares a laugh with Antonia Moore, the school's adviser to Project 351, a youth community service initiative. PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

know the first thing about a woman's body. It made me angry. I tried to reach out and make change through the little channels I had," she added.

Moore, who accompanied Sanders to Boston, said Sanders has "unending energy" and seeks any outlet she can to encourage others around her.

"Helen is empathetic to peers' diverse learning needs, and is patient to a commendable degree," said Moore. "Her sense of humor, curiosity, and eagerness to lend a helping hand makes her an ideal candidate for Project 351."

Project 351, adds Moore, gives Sanders a purpose for all of her passions: community service, questioning the status quo, supporting people of all abilities and circumstances, and bringing everyone together as an open-minded community: "She's aware of her position of agency in the world, and uses it with zeal."

AJHS Principal Norm Robbins said Sanders advocates for those less fortunate or those who may not always have the voice or the courage to speak up.

He called Sanders "a caring, compassionate and driven student" who is motivated to help others and find ways to be inclusive.

"Helen's a quiet leader who is passionate about making her school, community, and the world a kinder and more accepting place," he said. "She leads by example and is extremely humble about her talents."

In her role as a Project 351 ambassador, Sanders will participate in three statewide service campaigns throughout the year, including a spring event in support of Cradles and Crayons, a Sept. 11 tribute, and a fall activity to help end hunger.

"I think it's important for people of any age to involve themselves in things such as this — but children especially," said Sanders. "Every single charity project makes someone's life a bit better."

Sanders, however, doesn't prefer one charity over another.

"My favorite charity project is the one that helps others," she said. "Each charitable act does a huge amount of good."

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# SPORTS

## SWIM TEAM

### Swim teams treading water

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

It has been a tale of two seasons now for the Agawam High School girls swim team. The Brownies are now 4-4 heading into the final two weeks of the regular season. But it's how they got there that is interesting.

Agawam opened up the winter with four consecutive victories, but then dropped their next four meets, including the first three of their Minuteman League schedule.

Their most recent loss was a 108-73 setback against visiting Northampton last Friday afternoon in the pool at Agawam Junior High School.

Kate Dustin continued to have an excellent season, winning two individual events with the 200 freestyle. Megan Crawford won the diving competition for the Brownies with a couple of good dives. And Hannah Parker took the 100 breaststroke. Agawam's relay teams struggled against Northampton, all coming up short in the meet.

Agawam's schedule does not get better, with Minnechaug next up on the schedule. The Brownies are scheduled to close out against East Longmeadow on Jan. 28.

Boys swimming has had a similar situation, but with one exception. After winning their first four meets and losing three in a row, Agawam pulled out the win against Northampton 98-51.

Colin La was a double-winner for the Brownies, taking the 200 freestyle and 100 freestyle event. Elshama Priveidenyuk won two events, taking the 100 flystroke and the 50 freestyle. Jonathan Jung was a winner in the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke. David Dagenais won the 100 breaststroke.

Agawam's three relay teams all picked up first-place finishes.



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## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Home at last for Agawam boys basketball



After an entire season of games on the road, all of which were losses for Agawam High School boys basketball, the Brownies finally returned home at the end of last week. The Agawam High School gymnasium had been shut down for home games due to new bleachers being installed. The project, however, was delayed several months, lasting a month into the winter season. Agawam boys basketball split their first two home games of 2020, defeating Westfield for their first win of the season 72-65, and losing to Holyoke 78-64 last Friday night. In the loss to Holyoke, Agawam's offense had a bit of trouble starting off, but picked up momentum as the game went on. Holyoke, however, did a great job and was scoring throughout the entire game, grabbing an early lead and keeping it. Agawam was led with 25 points from Mike Berthiaume. Thomas Arcelaschi and Zach Moccio had 12 points each. Agawam is 1-9 this season.



Zach Moccio gets a hand to the face as he shoots.



Above: Mike Berthiaume goes around a Holyoke guard.

Right: Dylan Wesley keeps the ball at his side, away from an opponent.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

### Brownies split pair of league games

The Agawam High School girls basketball team is just 3-9 this season, but still has an opportunity to qualify for the Western Mass. tournament if it can have a success league campaign with a first or second place finish. Agawam has been successful in recent Suburban League action. To start 2020, the Brownies split their first two games, defeating Belchertown and losing to South Hadley. In Agawam's first home game of 2020, it defeated Belchertown 38-33. Jessica D'Amours led Agawam with 12 points. Brie Benjamin added seven points in the win. Agawam struggled late in the game, but held on for the win. Agawam next faces Amherst on the road at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24. Agawam returns home Tuesday night to host Granby High School at 7 p.m.



Delaney Brown eyes a pass as she nears the corner of the court.



Jessica D'Amours pushes the ball around the perimeter.



Gianna Smith pushes a bounce pass into the paint.



Izzy Lalancette makes her way down the court.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Sports

The Week Ahead

<b>Boys Basketball</b>		
Friday, Jan. 24	Home	West Springfield 7 p.m.
<b>Girls Basketball</b>		
Friday, Jan. 24	Away	Amherst 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 28	Home	Granby 7 p.m.
<b>Ice Hockey</b>		
Thursday, Jan. 23	Away	Belchertown 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24	Away	Westfield 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25	Away	East Longmeadow 5:20 p.m.
<b>Indoor Track</b>		
Friday, Jan. 24	Away	West Springfield, Putnam 3:45 p.m.
<b>Swimming</b>		
Tuesday, Jan. 28	Away	East Longmeadow 4 p.m.
<b>Wrestling</b>		
Thursday, Jan. 23	Home	Mahar 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	Home	West Springfield 7 p.m.

Basketball Hall of Fame renovations enter final phase

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced it has entered the final phase of its more than \$23 million refurbishment of the museum which launched in early 2018. The museum will be closed to the public from Monday, Feb. 3 to Wednesday, March 25 as the iconic Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams will be fully redeveloped, along with implementation of new interactive areas around the court. Additionally, the Hall’s second floor will be deconstructed for a full transformation during this time.

“The Hall of Fame renovation has been underway since early 2018 and we are very excited to share our progress with the people of Springfield and fans traveling from afar,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Hall of Fame. “As we complete phase three, the inside of the museum will become an active construction site, which has required us to close to the public for approximately seven weeks. We are encouraged by the tremendous advancements we’ve made to our museum and we invite everyone to join us for the new experience upon reopening.”

The Hall’s renovation includes the refurbishment of its iconic dome, in addition to a new technology and visitor experience with a fully redesigned “High Above Center Court” experience and the all new “Honors Ring.” The renovations are completely privately funded and are expected to be fully completed by June 1.

The Hall of Fame has proudly partnered with local contractors on this project which approaches \$4 million to include: Western Builders (Granby, MA); Chandler Architectural Products, Inc. (W. Springfield, MA); Kent Brothers Excavating (Southampton, MA); Superior Caulking & Waterproofing, Inc. (Palmer, MA); Collins Electric (Chicopee, MA); Managed Air Systems LLC (Aircraft Grade Paint Refinisher, Bloomfield, CT); Healey & Associates (Belchertown, MA); and Project Management by Colebrook Realty Services (Springfield & Holyoke, MA)

For questions or more information, please contact John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame at (413) 231-5500.

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Thompson releases NASCAR schedule

46th Annual Icebreaker set for April 4-5

THOMPSON, Conn. -- Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park revealed a six-race NASCAR Weekly Series schedule for the 2020 season on Monday.

The 2020 slate consists of three major staple events, and three more events that will spotlight NASCAR Weekly Series competitors as part of mid-week, Wednesday night specials in the heart of the summer.

The season begins with the 46th annual Icebreaker weekend (April 4-5) and ends with the 58th annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing, with three packed days, October 9-11.

“We are pleased with the amount of support we are receiving from our dedicated race teams and drivers and we ready to go forward with our NASCAR Weekly Series program for the 2020 season,” Terry Eames, General Manager of Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, said. “We are looking forward to six great events for our dedicated race fans.”

Thompson will continue to showcase five NASCAR Weekly Series divisions, starting with the Sunoco Modifieds. The Late Models follow as Division II, while the SK Light Modifieds (Division III), Limited Sportsman (Division IV) and Mini Stocks

2020 NASCAR SCHEDULE

- MARCH 21: NASCAR Test & Tune
- APRIL 3: Icebreaker Test & Tune
- APRIL 4-5: 46th annual Icebreaker
- JUNE 3: NASCAR Weekly Series Racing
- JULY 8: NASCAR Weekly Series Racing
- AUGUST 5: NASCAR Weekly Series Racing
- AUGUST 19: NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Bud “King of Beers” 150 + NASCAR Weekly Series Racing
- OCTOBER 9-11: 58th Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing

(Division V) complete the slate.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will headline the Icebreaker weekend, alongside all five NASCAR Weekly Series divisions. Following the Icebreaker, NASCAR Weekly Series teams return to action for their three, mid-week events on June 3, July 8 and August 5.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns for the annual Bud “King of Beers” 150 on Wednesday, August 19, before crowning their champion and helping to seal Thompson’s schedule as part of the 58th annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing, October 9-11.

Prior to the season, Thompson will host a NASCAR Test & Tune for all safe race cars on Saturday, March 21, with a rain date of March 28.

Teams can expect a rules package and additional information soon. For some of the latest news, visit Thompson Speedway on the web, [thompson-speedway.com](http://thompson-speedway.com), and follow the track on social media via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

T-Birds erase deficit, stun Bruins in OT

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (23-18-2-0) completed a spectacular, improbable comeback in the final minute of regulation before stunning the Providence Bruins (23-16-2-2) by a score of 6-5 in overtime on Sunday afternoon inside the Dunkin’ Donuts Center.

Looking to add to a five-game win streak against Springfield, the Bruins wasted no time taking an early advantage, as Jack Studnicka carried the puck into the right corner and slid a pass to Paul Carey in the slot. The Providence captain quickly snapped a wrist shot over the glove of Philippe Desrosiers to make it a 1-0 game just 1:46 into the first.

Desrosiers was under fire in the opening period, as Providence put 17 shots into the goaltender’s crease area, but other than the Carey strike, the T-Birds goaltender held the fort.

Springfield prevented themselves from entering the intermission scoreless at 18:05, when Rodrigo Abols cleanly won an offensive zone faceoff back to Tommy Cross, and the former Bruin captain slapped the shot through newcomer Bruins goaltender Martin Ouellette to tie the score, 1-1. The goal was Cross’ fourth against the Bruins in eight games in the season series.

Abols then pushed the T-Birds to the lead at the 7:11 mark of the middle period. Ryan Haggerty pulled a puck off the left-side wall and fired a short-side wrist shot at the net with his momentum drifting toward the blue line. Abols stationed himself in the blue paint, where he scooped up a rebound

off Ouellette’s pad before chipping it up into the net to give Springfield the 2-1 advantage.

Much like a week ago, however, the Bruins showed a quick strike ability as Brendan Gaunce got the game evened up just 55 seconds later after a Brendan Woods slapper bounced to the ice out of the glove of Desrosiers and right into the crease.

The T-Birds penalty kill was busy in the back half of the middle period, as the Bruins had a pair of man advantage chances to retake the lead, but both times, Desrosiers and the PK battled to survive the threats. With precious time dwindling on the second period, Rob O’Gara would untie the game again with just 5.9 seconds to go in the middle frame, as the ex-Bruin flipped a wrist shot through bodies and underneath Ouellette to give Springfield the 3-2 advantage through 40 minutes.

The third period brought a roller coaster ride of emotions and momentum. The Bruins threatened to spoil the Thunderbirds’ day when Peter Cehlarik tied the game on a power play goal at 5:54 of the third to tie the game, 3-3. A minute later, Carey recorded his second of the game when a loose puck found its way onto his stick in the slot area to make it 4-3 Providence.

The Thunderbirds’ power play failed with a chance to tie the game moments later, and Gaunce popped home his second of the game with 1:50 to go to make it a 5-3 score.

Springfield, however, made sure this day would not go sour. Owen Tippett finally broke through to score in

his third consecutive game at 19:19 when he lifted a backhand over Ouellette’s shoulder to cut the lead to 5-4.

After taking a timeout, the Thunderbirds then pulled Desrosiers from the net a second time, and from the right wing circle, Aleksi Saarela ripped a one-timer past Ouellette to stun the Providence crowd and tie the game, 5-5, with just 8.8 seconds remaining.


With overtime separating the T-Birds from one of their most improbable wins ever, Desrosiers had to hold the fort himself, as the Bruins registered the first two shots of the extra period. With 1:20 remaining in overtime, Jake Massie accelerated through the defense and drew a hooking penalty, giving Springfield a 4-on-3 advantage.

The power play began frenetically, with Ouellette diving to the side of his net to stonewall both Paul Thompson and Henrik Borgstrom on point blank chances that could have ended the game. With Ouellette scrambling just to try to get back in his net, Saarela set himself up again and Borgstrom hit him with a perfect pass, and Saarela blasted it home at 4:20 of the overtime to complete the miraculous comeback.

With the win, the T-Birds now sit just two points back of Providence for the fourth playoff spot in the Atlantic Division.

The T-Birds return to home soil for three games this upcoming week, beginning with a tangle with the Hershey Bears on Wednesday night at 7:05 p.m.

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PIPELINE ■ from page 1

said there's no need for expanded natural gas infrastructure in the Pioneer Valley, as other pipeline projects have been canceled and the region is increasingly switching to renewable energy sources.

The City Council opted to take no action at its Jan. 21 meeting, and will instead seek more information from the town's Board of Health and Law Department, as well as Tennessee Gas, before making its decision.

Mayor William Sapelli joined many councilors in commending the pipeline opponents for their passion and civic-mindedness in speaking out, but said there is "a lot of misinformation out there" about Tennessee Gas' safety record in Agawam.

While pipeline opponents cited a November 2017 incident in which contaminated water was dumped at the compressor station in Agawam, Sapelli said the fault lay with a subcontractor that Tennessee Gas no longer uses, and the amounts of carcinogens released into the public were "negligible."

The Tennessee Gas Pipeline has been in Agawam for 70 years, Sapelli said, "and they've been a very good neighbor."

City Councilor Gina Letellier, however, said she had concerns about the wording of the proposed easement. Letellier, a law-

yer by trade, said it appeared the easement would release Tennessee Gas from liability for lost "crops, timber and any and all damages" related to pipeline construction for a one-time payment of \$150,000. She said it was unclear whether this applied only to town-owned properties, or to every affected property in Agawam.

In their letter, the pipeline opponents described this as "a free pass to commit all kinds of bad acts with impunity and no accountability for the consequences ... where there is real and significant potential harm to property and the environment."

"I can't vote for this," Letellier said. "There needs to be another release that's more clear. As an attorney, I wouldn't recommend that a client sign this."

Council President Christopher Johnson, who is also a lawyer, said he was satisfied that Tennessee Gas could be held accountable for damage to property based on the text of the easement agreements themselves.

The "261B" 12-inch diameter loop pipeline would run along an existing 8- and 10-inch natural gas pipeline from the compressor station for about 2.1 miles, on the west side of Suffield Street, to connect to an existing Columbia Gas pipeline near the west end of Silver Lake.

The 261 Upgrade Project also calls for the installation of a new gas compressor turbine at the Suffield Street station to re-

place two older turbines, dating from 1965 and 1991.

Pipeline opponents also criticized the compressor upgrade, predicting that it would be louder than the existing compressors. Corinne Wingard said she opposed the project, but if must be built, she asked that Tennessee Gas substitute a quieter, electric-powered compressor rather than the proposed gas-powered compressor.

Sapelli said the compressor upgrade should be seen as a positive development.

"They have a compressor that's 50 years old now. They're replacing that. I think that's a good thing," he said.

The City Council is not being asked to permit or deny the full project, which is regulated by state and federal authorities. The easement agreements on the council docket are required for the loop pipeline to cross town-owned properties off Suffield Street, and an unused town water pipeline easement on Gold Street.

Other councilors also raised questions they said they would like answered before they would feel comfortable voting on the easement. Councilor Rosemary Sandlin said she'd like to hear from the town's Board of Health. Echoing concerns raised by the citizens' letter, councilors Robert Rossi and Anthony Suffriti questioned whether the project is still necessary, following the cancellation of a proposed Columbia Gas pipeline in Northampton that would have

been fed by the Agawam loop line.

Councilor George Bitzas said he'd like a legal opinion from the town solicitor on what would happen if the council voted to deny the easement. Councilor Paul Cavallo said he'd like to invite a representative from Tennessee Gas to attend a council meeting and answer these questions before taking a vote.

Much of the public criticism of the Agawam pipeline voiced on Tuesday had to do with a general opposition to natural gas and fossil fuels.

Wendy Hollis, an Agawam resident and a school nurse in Chicopee, said increased reliance on natural gas would only worsen the Pioneer Valley's status as the worst metropolitan area in the country for asthma.

"Trips to the emergency room and rising medical costs are the collateral damage when greenhouse gases like nitrogen dioxide are released into the atmosphere" through the use of natural gas, Hollis said. "Nitrogen dioxide is likely to be a cause of asthma in children."

In their letter, the pipeline opponents also said natural gas pipes leak methane, another greenhouse gas, and Agawam residents near the Suffield Street compressor station, particularly in the adjacent Longwood Estates development, have to deal with noise and emissions pollution.

GEO ■ from page 1

between them to determine which one would win this year's competition. When Stark answered a question correctly and Ryan answered incorrectly for the second time, Stark became the school's 2020 champion.

"I knew that there had been one other student who had repeated as a Geo Bee champion — and I was hoping I would be the next one," he said.

Stark added that he felt much more confident this year because of his previous Geo Bee experience: "It helped because I knew the structure of the competition, so I wasn't as nervous as I was last year."

His social studies teacher, Nicole Martins, was almost as happy as Stark.

"This is awesome. We get to experience the state Geo Bee again," she said.

Martins was also Stark's social studies teacher when he won the 2019 competition. She was thrilled to have taught four students in the 2020 competition — including the champion and the runner-up.

"It's so amazing that so many of my students were able to achieve the honor of being part of this competition," she said.

Martins said the 10 finalists — especially Stark — deserve most of the credit for their achievement.

"I know that Hunter worked very hard and put in a lot of personal time outside of school studying and preparing for the Geo Bee," she said. "His hard work certainly paid off."

Stark — a history and geography buff who enjoys watching the History Channel — said he put much more effort into getting ready for this year's competition.

"I studied a lot more than I did last year.



Runner-up Ryan Stairs, left, congratulates Geography Bee champion Hunter Stark on the stage at Agawam Junior High School. Photos by Mike Lydick

I felt more confident and more prepared this time around," he said.

Stark credits his family, especially his grandparents with instilling a desire to learn about geography. His passion for history and geography began when he was eight years old. Many mornings before going to school, Stark watches the Smithsonian Channel to learn more about his favorite subjects.

His parents, Danielle Stark and Nick Alvanos, admitted they were a little anxious as they watched the competition, especially when it came down to their son and one other student.



Eighth grade finalist Kaden McCarthy holds up her answer to a Geo Bee question.



Hunter Stark shows his mother Danielle the plaque engraved with Geo Bee winners' names, as family members gather to congratulate him on his achievement.

"There were a few jitters among us, that's for sure. But we felt confident that he would come out on top," said Alvanos, his stepfather.

"We were nervous as we watched, but we would have been just as happy — and just as proud — whether Hunter got first or second place. We were very proud that he made it into the top 10 on the stage," added his mother.

The Geo Bee competition, which is similar to a spelling bee, but more challenging, is designed to encourage more student interest in geography and increase public awareness about geography. AJHS is among more than 10,000 schools around the country that hold Geo Bees to test students on



During an early round at the annual AJHS Geo Bee, eighth grader Aiden Kane gives his answer to social studies teacher Jennifer DeStefano.

their geographic knowledge.

As the new champion, Stark received a medal and an Amazon gift card. The nine other contestants all received gift cards to Wendy's. Stark's name will once again be engraved on a plaque that is displayed in the school lobby and includes the names of all previous Geo Bee champions.

Next month Stark will take an online qualifying test to determine if he will be eligible to compete in the state level Geo Bee. The top 100 ranked students in each state who qualify to represent their school at the state competitions will determine participants for the national Geo Bee that will be held in Washington, D.C., in May. Among the prizes the national champion will receive is a \$25,000 college scholarship.

In addition to Stark and Stairs, this year's finalists were eighth graders Ethan Danek, Aiden Kane, Kaden McCarthy and Colin Smith, and seventh graders Trevor Del Barba, Ulani Guzman, Jacob Lancour and Joey Szemela.



Finalists for the 2020 AJHS Geo Bee competition gather on stage with this year's champion, Hunter Stark. Pictured in the back row, from left, are Ethan Danek, Ulani Guzman, Kaden McCarthy, Ryan Stairs, Colin Smith, Jacob Lancour and Aiden Kane; kneeling in front are Joey Szemela, left, and Trevor Del Barba.



Ten Agawam Junior High School students took to the stage on Jan. 17 to compete in the school's annual National Geographic Geography Bee.



# Public Notices

## LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of **Anna Chuduk** for a zone change request for **266 Walnut Street, Agawam, MA., Parcel ID# J15-2-4** from Business A to Industrial A. A copy of the proposed zone change (ZC-2020-1) can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam City Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam City Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:  
**Christopher C. Johnson**  
City Council President  
1/16, 1/23/2020

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD19E0058PP

To Peter J. McLaughlin of Westfield, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Mark S. McLaughlin of Russell, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as joint tenants an undivided part or share of land lying in Agawam, in the County

of Hampden, setting forth that he desires that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than One Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$177,500.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the seventh day of February, 2020**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this nineteenth day of December, 2019.

**Suzanne T. Seguin**,  
Register of Probate  
& Family Court  
1/09, 1/16, 1/23/2020

## LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday,**

**February 3, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of **Verteramo Real Estate, LLC.** for a zone change request for **Rear Meadow Street Parcel ID#L12-4-21, Agawam, MA.** from RA-2, Agricultural and Industrial to Business A. A copy of the proposed zone change (ZC-2020-2) can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam City Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam City Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:  
**Christopher C. Johnson**  
City Council President  
1/16, 1/23/2020

## Commonwealth Of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate And Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD17P1512EA  
Estate of:  
**Viola A Smith**  
Date of Death: 12/09/1991

## CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:  
A petition for **Sale of Real Estate** has been filed by: **John Paquette of Webster NY** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to

sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/04/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 07, 2020

**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate & Family Court Dept.  
1/23/2020

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD18P1249EA  
Estate of:

**Jeannette V Tesny**  
DATE F DEATH:  
11/03/2017  
CITATION ON  
PETITION FOR  
ORDER OF COMPLETE  
SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **John Tesny** of West Springfield MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law, the allowance of a proposed distribution and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the

court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **02/07/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 10, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
1/23/2020

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**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE AGENDA

**7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28**  
**Agawam Junior High School**  
**1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills**

1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Roll call of attendance
4. Regular meeting — 7 p.m.
5. Citizen's Speak Time
6. Highlights on Education:
  - a. As Schools Match Wits Team
7. Superintendent's Notes
8. Student Advisory Committee representative update
9. Unfinished business:
  - a. SCR-20-01, Adoption of the 2020–2021 School Calendar
10. Business meeting

- a. Routine matters
  - 1) Approval of minutes
  - 2) Calendar/correspondence
  - b. Warrants/transfers
  - c. Reports:
    - 1) Scheduled Reports:
      - EL Update — Ashley Martins, EL Director
      - Financial Update (paper report)
      - Personnel Update (paper report)
    - 2) Subcommittee updates
    11. New business:
      - a. SCR-20-02, Acceptance of \$5,000 Donation from AHS Ice Hockey Booster Club
      - b. SCR-20-03, Approval of AHS 2020-2021 Program of Studies
    12. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
    13. Adjournment

## POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 435 calls for service Jan. 13-20, and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

### Monday, Jan. 13

Alexander Waldron, 37, of 238 Maple St., Apt. E6, Agawam, was arrested at 4:43 p.m. at the police station on a warrant.

### Friday, Jan. 17

David Ronald Strickland, 36, of 38 Debra Lane, Agawam, was arrested at 9:38 p.m. on Springfield Street and charged with driving under the influence of liquor, failing to stop or yield, and negligent driving.

### Saturday, Jan. 18

Phillip Powell, 36, of 490 Hancock St., Springfield,

was arrested at 3:01 a.m. on Mill Street on four warrants, and also charged with driving with a license revoked as a habitual traffic offender, driving without insurance, driving without a registration, driving without a license in possession and illegally attaching plates to a motor vehicle.

### Sunday, Jan. 19

Michael J. Russell IV, 19, of 1 Pidgeon Drive, Wilbraham, was arrested at 11:49 p.m. on Mulberry Street and charged with possession of a class B drug, possession of a class D drug with intent to distribute, possession of an open container of marijuana in a vehicle, and underage possession of liquor.

David Jacob Pantoja, 20, of 10 Brooklawn Road, Wilbraham, was arrested at 11:52 p.m. on Mulberry Street and charged with possession of a class D drug with intent to distribute.

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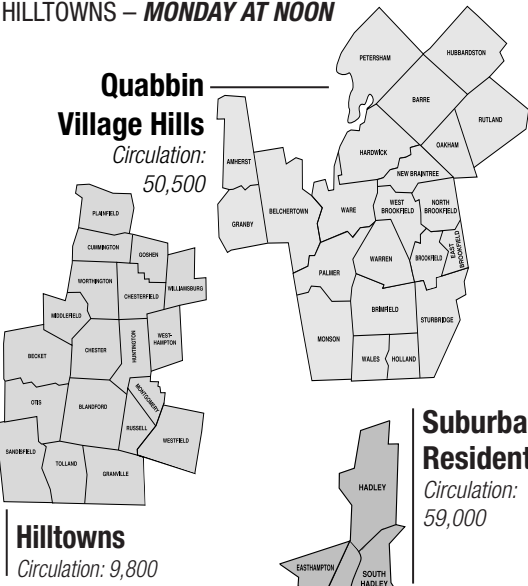
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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How to Apply/ Contact  
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Out & About

Out & About is a community calendar for Agawam and neighboring towns. Free listings are available for non-commercial, non-political entertainment or educational events that are free to attend, or fundraisers that benefit a non-profit organization. Only events in Agawam or one of its immediate bordering towns, or events that benefit an organization based in Agawam, will be listed. Submitted items should be brief, with only time, date, location, activity explanation, and contact information, and may be edited for length and style. Items may be sent to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com), faxed to 413-283-7107 or mailed to Agawam Advertiser News, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. The deadline for calendar listings is noon Friday, the week before that Thursday's newspaper.

Friday, Jan. 24

CHEFS FOR JIMMY at Chez Josef, 176 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, 6:30-9:30 p.m. For a \$100 admission, sample dishes from 30 of the Pioneer Valley's top restaurants. All proceeds benefit the Jimmy Fund at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. More info: [www.jimmyfund.org/events/cancer-fundraising-events/chefs-for-jimmy/](http://www.jimmyfund.org/events/cancer-fundraising-events/chefs-for-jimmy/).

VICTORIAN FASHION PRESENTATION in the Union Meeting House at Storowton Village Museum at the Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, 7 p.m. Using vintage and authentically reproduced undergarments, clothing and accessories, living historian Kandie Carle will show how ladies dressed in the 1890s, including humorous anecdotes about how life was lived at the time. Audience questions are encouraged. Tickets \$8 in advance at [storowtonvillage.com](http://storowtonvillage.com) or \$10 at the door. More info: 413-205-5051.

BENEFIT ROCK CONCERT at American Legion Post 185, "The Tank," 478 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, 8 p.m. The band Rust will play the hits of the '50s through the '80s. All are welcome at no charge. There will be a raffle to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

Sunday, Jan. 26

PARISH PICNIC at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Hot

Agawam Senior Center

The Senior Center at 954 Main St., Agawam, is open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 413-821-0605. Lunch is served daily at 11:30 a.m. for a \$3 suggested donation; diners must register 24 hours in advance at 413-821-0604.

Lunch Menu

**Monday, Jan. 27:** French meat pie, peas, mashed potatoes, fresh apple.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 28:** Baked chicken with tarragon sauce, buttered noodles, carrots, baked good.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 29:** Roast pork loin with gravy, roasted potatoes and carrots, applesauce, pears.  
**Thursday, Jan. 30:** Sweet and sour meatballs over rice, Italian blend vegetables, pudding.  
**Friday, Jan. 31:** Minestrone soup, egg salad sandwich, fruit juice, fruit cocktail.

Daily Events

**Monday, Jan. 27:** Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; line dancing (\$3), 9:45 a.m.; gentle yoga (\$6), 11:30 a.m.; bridge group, 12:30 p.m.; bingo, 1 p.m.;

grandparents group, 1:30 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Jan. 28:** Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; open knit, 9 a.m.; computer help — Ask the Techs, 10 a.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 10:15 a.m.; ladies-only billiards, noon; Senior Cinemas ("Judy"), 12:30 p.m.; mah jongg, 12:30 p.m.; Mexican train dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; writing group, 1:30 p.m.; yoga (\$6), 4:30 p.m.; beginner line dance, 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday, Jan. 29:** Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; gentle yoga (\$6), 9:45 a.m.; bereavement group, 10 a.m.; veterans benefit seminar, 10 a.m.; bridge, 12:30 p.m.; ballroom lesson (see staff), 1 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, Jan. 30:** Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; Quilting Club, 9 a.m.; Wii Sports, 10:15 a.m.; reiki (\$10), 10:30 a.m.; bridge, 12:15 p.m.; Mexican train dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; open art, 1 p.m.; yoga (\$6), 4 p.m.  
**Friday, Jan. 31:** Yin Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; Let's Paint (\$10), 9:15 a.m.; tai chi (\$6), 10 a.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; cornhole, 1 p.m.; cribbage, 1 p.m.; card games, 1 p.m.

dogs, hamburgers, dessert, raffles. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Free will offering. More info: Bill Testicinni, 413-205-7082, or Jack Capuccilli, 413-222-5999.

Monday, Feb. 3

HOCKEY BOOK SIGNING at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam, 6 p.m. Bruce Landon, retired professional goalie and long-time part-owner of the Springfield Falcons of the American Hockey League, will sign copies of his memoir "The Puck Stops Here — My (Not So) Minor League Life." Proceeds from book sales benefit the Tammy Jacobson-Landon "I Can Hear You Now" Scholarship Fund at Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

'EATING TO THRIVE' LECTURE at the YMCA of

Greater Westfield, 67 Court St., Westfield, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Free. Andrea Luttrell, registered dietician and labor and delivery nurse, will share easy tips on preparing balanced meals on a family budget. Participants receive a gift bag with handouts and coupons. Registration required by Jan. 27 at 413-568-8631. More info: Cindy Agan, [cagan@westfieldymca.org](mailto:cagan@westfieldymca.org).

Wednesday, Feb. 5

SPAGHETTI SUPPER at Elm-Belcher Masonic Lodge, 53 River St., Agawam, 4:30 to 7 p.m. All you can eat for \$9 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, \$4 for veterans and first responders, free for active-duty military. All are welcome.

Friday, Feb. 7

ROMANTIC MUSIC CONCERT as part of the Agawam Cultural Council's free Applause Series.

Doors open at the Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, at 6:15 p.m.; the concert begins at 7. Judy Handler and Mark Levesque will feature Spanish and Latin American music for guitar, mandolin and cuatro. More info: 413-821-0604 or [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org).

Sunday, Feb. 9

BUILDING TOURS of the former Classical High School, 235 State St., Springfield, 2 p.m. Free. Participants will see how the former high school was converted into condominiums 30 years ago. Hosted by Historical Classical Inc.

Saturday, Feb. 15

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON at the Grange hall, 47 N. West St., Feeding Hills, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Homemade soups, sandwiches, dessert and choice of beverage will be sold for \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children under 12. Proceeds benefit Community Grange 382. Reservations are suggested at 413-789-2061.

ONGOING

NAMI CONNECTION, a free, peer-led support group for adults who are concerned about their mental health, meets Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., in the NAMI Western Massachusetts office at 324A Springfield St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-9139 or email [information@nami-wm.org](mailto:information@nami-wm.org).

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS can help with eating problems. Meetings are held throughout Western Massachusetts, including regular meetings in Agawam. There are no dues, fees, weigh-ins or special foods to buy. All are welcome. For more information, call Springfield Answering Services at 413-783-4198 or Marcia at 703-415-6744, or visit [www.oawmass.org](http://www.oawmass.org).

THE TRADING POST consignment shop is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at First Baptist Church, 760 Main St., Agawam. The Trading Post carries a variety of items, including clothes, shoes, handbags, jewelry, books, toys, household and gift items. Donations are welcomed during store hours.

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February 4 – April 9 • Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00pm  
 \$649



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Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, and Russian speakers are in-demand in law offices, schools, state agencies, and contracting agencies. Students will learn legal terminology and procedural protocols needed to interpret for various types of legal hearings.

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Veterinary Assistant

The Veterinary Assistant works directly under the supervision of Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians as they perform procedures, examinations, and treatments. Learn the essential skills to keep animals healthy, care for them when they are ill, and assist vets and vet techs.

February 10 – August 10 • Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am – 12:00pm  
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 or  
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